

A clearer example of the dangers of media consolidation than Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary film mere days before the election could not be found.

In exchange for free use of public spectrum, Sinclair is legally obligated to serve the public's interest, not that of its ownership. The forced airing of political propaganda so close to an election is, instead, a disservice of the public interest; instead of real people from our own communities and substantive news about issues that affect our lives, we are presented with the political views of Sinclair's owners in the guise of "news".

Given this partisan political manipulation of the public trust on the part of Sinclair Broadcasting, it is imperative that we strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them and that the license renewal process be returned to its original purpose of serving as a judgment on the public service rendered by licensees in exchange for free use of the spectrum.

Thank you.